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(54) Title: METHOD FOR TREATING CARBONACEOUS MATERIALS

(57) **Abstract:** Process for reducing the amount of sulfur-containing impurities in carbonaceous materials are described. One process comprises contacting the materials with an aqueous solution of hydrofluorosilicic acid in the absence of hydrogen fluoride under conditions wherein at least some of the sulfur-containing impurities react with the hydrofluorosilicic acid to form reaction products and separating the reaction products from the carbonaceous materials. Another process comprises contacting the materials with an aqueous solution of hydrofluorosilicic acid in the absence of hydrogen fluoride under conditions wherein at least some of the sulfur-containing impurities react with the hydrofluorosilicic acid to form reaction products, separating the reaction products and the hydrofluorosilicic acid from the carbonaceous materials and subsequently treating the carbonaceous materials with a fluorine acid solution which comprises an aqueous solution of hydrofluorosilicic acid and hydrogen fluoride. A further process comprises treating the carbonaceous materials with a fluorine acid solution which comprises an aqueous solution of hydrofluorosilicic acid and hydrogen fluoride, separating the carbonaceous materials from the aqueous solution of hydrofluorosilicic acid and hydrogen fluoride, and then contacting the carbonaceous materials with an organic solvent capable of dissolving elemental sulfur.

WO 03/074639 A1